

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Oct. 26, 87, p.2.

Washington, D. C., October 26, 1887.

Sir:

By your letter of October 8, confirmed by one from the contractor, Mr. Joseph Wharton, to the effect that this contractor had proposed, in a supplementary way, to deliver Five-cent Nickel Blanks for two and six-tenths (2.6) cents more per pound for cleaned and milled than for uncleaned Blanks, I was induced to authorize you to make further proposals for the same blanks cleaned and milled to the extent of fifty thousand (50,000) pounds additional, more or less. The rate proposed on the 20th (only twelve days afterwards) is seven and three-tenths (7.3) cents more per pound, a rate so high that I have serious doubt as to whether the mint is justified in paying so high a price for work which appertains to its own functions.

I shall be glad, before rejecting these proposals, to have some explanation why such a difference should be made as between the offers of different dates.

(more or less)

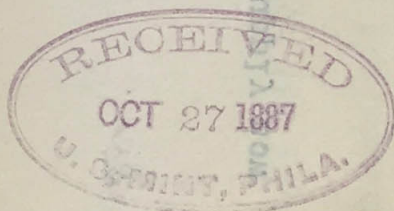
The fact is, Mr. Wharton offered 200,000 pounds cleaned and milled for 37.4 cents per pound, and on the 20th October the same (that is, 50,000 pounds more or less) for 42.1 cents. Although the offer for the large amount on the 8th was not accepted, for want of formality of such a proposal, you will see that the

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Treas. Dept.
Washington, D.C.
Oct. 26. 1887

James P. Kimball
Director,

Mr. Wharton's proposition of
Oct 8th, to deliver 5 cent Nickel
Blanks for 2 $\frac{1}{10}$ cts more per
lb. for cleaned & milled
than for uncleaned &c. &c.
— Rate proposed on 20th inst.
is $\frac{3}{10}$ cts. — is so high, that
Mint is not justified in
acceptance. — Asks, why
such difference between the
offers. — — remarks.



Accepted subject to the approval of this Bureau.

Very respectfully,

Director of the Mint.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,

Superintendent U.S. Mint,

Philadelphia.

[Abstract:] Mr. Wharton's proposition of Oct. 8", to deliver 5 cent nickel blanks...

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Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,
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